

NEW YORK TIMES

4 May, 1985

ARTICLE APPEARED

ON PAGE 10

EX-AGENT DETAILS COUNTERSPY PLAN

He Says He Coached Emigré,
Now Charged as Spy, for
Russian Embassy Visit

By JUDITH CUMMINGS

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, May 2 — A former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified today that he coached a Russian émigré on what to say on a planned visit to the Soviet Embassy in Washington in 1982 as part of a plan to turn her into a double agent.

The agent, John E. Hunt, said that he later decided that the émigré, Svetlana Ogorodnikov, was not capable of carrying out the embassy meeting to the benefit of the bureau. The meeting, which had been planned for August 1982, never took place, he said.

Mr. Hunt, continuing his testimony under cross examination in Federal District Court today, is a Government witness in the trial of Mrs. Ogorodnikov and her husband, Nikolay. The couple, who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1973, are charged with conspiring with another former agent, Richard W. Miller, to pass classified information to the Soviet intelligence services.

Emigré Would Be 'Asset'

Under questioning by Gregory Stone, one of Mrs. Ogorodnikov's lawyers, Mr. Hunt elaborated on his earlier testimony that he had "aggressively pursued" making Mrs. Ogorodnikov "an asset" of the bureau. The bureau, he has testified, calls informers in counterintelligence matters "assets."

Mr. Hunt testified he had felt that if his plans for Mrs. Ogorodnikov's visit to the embassy had materialized, it could have been possible to develop her into a double agent.

Mrs. Ogorodnikov, a 35-year-old one-time garment worker, maintains in her defense that she was an informer for the bureau and was cooperating with it when she was arrested last October, with her husband and Mr. Miller, and charged with espionage.

The Government has denied that Mrs. Ogorodnikov was a bureau "asset," asserting that she was rejected after the bureau judged her to be unreliable.